

ROCHFORD
RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

(W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR

1950

STAFF

S. C. HARRIS, F.R.V.A., F.C.C.S., *Clerk to the Council*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health: W. J. Moffat, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer South-East Essex, Essex County Council).

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and, Petroleum Inspector: H. Jepson, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: E. R. Shepherd, Cert.R.S.I.
(from 26th October, 1950)

Clerk and Typist: Miss P. M. Ferguson.

Temporary General Assistant: D. G. Stripp (until 18th February, 1950)

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

Engineer and Surveyor and Town Planning Officer: A. N. Box, M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I., M.R.San.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ROCHFORD.

August, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my second Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Rochford Rural District during the year 1950.

Taking first the available Vital Statistics of the District as an indication of the health of the community during the year under review, it will be observed that the population has continued to increase although the birth rate has fallen fairly sharply and the death rate has risen slightly. There still appears to be a movement of persons into the District in excess of those who move out each year. For the year 1950 the Registrar-General has supplied Comparability Factors for both the birth and the death rates of the District, in order to make allowance for the greater proportion of the elderly among the local population, and the application of these factors to the local birth and death rates shows that the annual number of births in the District is below the average for the country as a whole and that the total deaths are also below the average.

One death from poliomyelitis of a child visitor to the District was the only death from any infectious disease other than tuberculosis to be recorded in 1950. The number of deaths from tuberculosis during the year dropped to five as compared with eleven and ten respectively for the years 1948 and 1949. The number of cases remaining on the tuberculosis register of the District at 31st December, 1950 was 124 as compared with 117 in the previous year but as four cases moved away from the area and eight cases came to live in the District during the year there was no real increase in the incidence of the disease. With regard to the incidence of the other infectious diseases the total number notified was much less than in 1949 and this was due entirely to the prevalence of measles in the latter year. There were no cases of diphtheria in 1950 which was the third successive year without a case of the disease in the District. Scarlet Fever in a mild form has been somewhat more prevalent in the past two years than had been the case for the previous few years.

There was a substantial increase in the number of new houses built for the Council in 1950, but even so, comparatively little progress was possible in dealing with the substandard houses in the

District. Of these there are still a considerable number which are perforce occupied because of the present housing shortage. Many of these houses are beyond economic repair and either extensive reconditioning or demolition will eventually be necessary. It is to be hoped that, if the present progress with building new houses is maintained, the Council will be in a position in the not too distant future to tackle the problem of such substandard houses, including, where necessary, the re-housing of the occupants.

The Rural District Council has a record, in regard to the provision of main water supplies throughout their area, of which they may well be proud. The Council's post-war scheme of extensions to the water mains was completed during 1950, and with the laying of the main to Paglesham every parish then had a main water supply and main water was available to over 98 per cent. of all dwellings in the District, although as yet, all owners, particularly on the new lengths of mains are not, as yet connected thereto. The work of laying the new mains was carried out by the statutory undertakers, the Southend Waterwork Company, to whom the Council paid a non-returnable contribution of £15,830. The Council were unable to obtain a grant under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, and their contribution was financed by a loan under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Although no new works of sewerage, other than the provision of sewers to some new housing sites, were carried out during 1950, the approval of the Ministry of Health was obtained to the scheme proposed for the Stambridge area. Proposals for the sewerage of other parts of the District were submitted to the Ministry. Now that the water scheme for the District has been virtually completed it may be anticipated that it will be possible to proceed, at least in part with these sewerage schemes. There is particular need for the provision of sewers in the unmade roads which are a feature of some parts of the Rural District.

The Council adopted the Model Byelaws of the Ministry of Food for the handling storage and sale of foodstuffs in their District in the early part of 1950. At this period the opportunity was taken to make known the requirements of the new byelaws and the relevant section of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 to members of the food handling trade in the District. From the experience gained it appears that as far as this District is concerned regular routine visits and follow up visits to food handling premises are the most productive means of achieving improvement in the standard of food hygiene. In a task such as this no dramatic results can be expected but there is an obvious and increasing awareness among members of the food trades generally of their

obligations. It is pleasing to record that visits of the staff to food premises are invariably well received and ready co-operation is forthcoming.

There were no major changes in the legislative field in 1950. The Damage by Pests Act, 1949 came into operation in March 1950. This placed the responsibility directly upon the Council to ensure as far as practicable that the District be kept free from rats and mice.

Although no action was required under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act during the year the problem of the care of the aged has not decreased. The demand for hospital or hostel accommodation for the aged is still greater than the supply of beds and appears to be increasing as would be expected by the increasing longevity of the population. It is the Council's intention to proceed in the near future with the erection of small, easily run bungalows on their housing sites for the occupation of elderly persons. Such a scheme should make the domiciliary care of the aged more effective than hitherto, by breaking down the isolation which is such a frequent characteristic of the aged.

My thanks are due to the members of the Council for much valued help and support given during the year. I wish to record also the continued willing co-operation of the Council's officers. To Mr. Jepson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, I am indebted, for much help in the preparation of this report.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
W. J. MOFFAT.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36,080
Estimate of Resident Population, mid 1950 :	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19,000
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books at 31st December, 1950	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,064*
							£ s. d.	
Rateable Value 31st March, 1950	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	106,715 0 0	
Product of a Penny Rate at 31st March, 1950	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	427 18 10	

*This figure includes all properties where the description in the Council's Rate Book indicates that there is structually separate living accommodation. The total is not strictly comparable with that given in the years prior to 1949 under this heading. The new figures are felt to be the most accurate obtainable.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There was in 1950, an average of 3.13 persons living in each inhabited house in the Rural District, excluding moveable dwellings. The comparable figure for 1938 was 3.41 persons per house—and in the latter year there were 772 unoccupied houses in the District.

A description of the situation, boundaries and topography of the Rochford Rural District was given in the Annual Report for 1947 of my predecessor, Dr. J. F. Macdonald, in his 1947 review of the local government history of the District. There have been no changes in that respect since that date.

The principal industry in the Rochford Rural District continues to be agriculture and its ancillaries. Brickmaking is also carried on to a limited extent and there are some small factories but there are no large factories or industries on a large scale. There are no occupational risks to health in any occupations within the District.

Many of the adult population find employment either in adjoining districts or, more often, in the Greater London area, to which there are good travelling facilities from the greater part of the District. This has had the effect of making the western half of the District, in parts, more urban than rural in character.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population, Birth and Death Rates in 1950 and previous years

In Table I on page 9 there are set out certain extracts from the vital statistics of the Rochford Rural District for the years from 1937 to 1950 inclusive.

The total estimated population has continued to show the progressive increase which has been a feature of the post-war years. The increase for 1950 as compared with 1949 is 300. Nearly all of this increase must necessarily be accounted for by the movement of persons into the District from other areas, as the natural increase, or the excess of births over deaths in 1950 was only six.

The local birth rate in 1950 showed a sharp fall as compared with 1949 and now approximates to that of the pre-war rate for the District. There is, however, a larger proportion of the more elderly in the population of the Rural District as compared with the population of England and Wales as a whole, and to discount the effect of the age-constitution of the population on local birth and death rates the Registrar-General has this year supplied a Comparability Factor for births as well as a similar Factor for deaths. For births the Factor is 1.10, and when the local birth rate is multiplied by this the resulting rate of 15.07 births per thousand of the estimated population of the District is much nearer, although still below, the rate of 15.8 per thousand for England and Wales as a whole. This was the position which obtained with regard to the local birth rate as compared with the national rate in the pre-war years.

The crude death rate of the District in 1950 was 13.4 per thousand and is slightly above that of the two previous years. The Comparability Factor of 0.77, however, when applied to the local deaths produces a rate of 10.3 per thousand which is substantially below the figure of 11.6 for the whole country. This was also a feature of the pre-war local death rates.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age, namely nine, is above the totals for the two previous years which themselves were exceptionally low. As however, the numbers are so small it would be difficult to draw any comparison of value between the local and national death rates of infants in this age group.

Causes of Death 1950

In Table II on page 10 are set out the causes of death in the cases of 255 residents of the Rochford Rural District who died in

1950, whether the death occurred in the District or elsewhere in England and Wales. These figures have been supplied by the Registrar-General and it will be observed that the list of causes differs considerably from that supplied in the previous years. This is due to the implementation, as from 1950, of the World Health Organization Nomenclature Regulations 1948, and has required a revision in the 36 groups of causes, sent annually to Medical Officers of Health by the Registrar-General.

Once again diseases of the heart and circulatory system were the commonest causes of death, accounting in all for 100 out of the total of 255 deaths. The next largest group were the 52 deaths attributed to malignant new growths of various sites. The respiratory diseases, pneumonia, bronchitis and others, accounted for 28 deaths, principally in the elderly. There were only half the number of deaths due to tuberculosis as there had been in each of the two previous years.

Ages at Death

The various ages at which the deaths of these residents occurred were as shown in the table below.

Age at Death					Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
1 and under 5	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
5 and under 15	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
15 and under 25	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
25 and under 45	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
45 and under 65	...	...	...	...	23	15	38
65 and under 75	...	...	...	...	43	38	81
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	49	67	116
Totals	...	...	...	...	127	131	255

The deaths of persons aged 65 and upwards accounted for just on 75 per cent of the deaths, and of these the group aged 75 and upwards accounted for 45.5 per cent of the total.

Births

There was a considerable decrease in the total number of births in the Rochford Rural District as compared with the previous post-war years. The total of 261 births during 1950 was made up as follows :

	<i>Males</i>			<i>Females</i>
Total ...	...	...	137	124
Legitimate ...	...	...	130	114
Illegitimate ...	...	...	7	10

The birth rate for the year was 13.7 per thousand of the population as compared with 17.3 for 1949. The revised rate for 1950 after applying the Comparability Factor becomes 15.07, the provisional rate for England and Wales being 15.8.

There was only one still birth recorded in the District during the year 1950.

Deaths of Infants Under One Year

The number of deaths of infants under one year old was nine. Three of these children were illegitimate. Four of these infant deaths occurred in the first week of life and in three of them the cause of death was given as prematurity, associated in two cases with an infection of the respiratory tract, in the case of the fourth infant death in this group the cause was haemorrhagic disease of the new-born. One pair of non-identical twins died in their fourth week from specific pneumonia and nephritis. Of the remaining three infant deaths in this age group, one was due to chronic hydrocephalus, one to broncho-pneumonia and the third to enteritis.

The following shows how these infant deaths were distributed as to sex and legitimacy.

(a) Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Total	...	...	5	4
Legitimate	...	...	4	2
Illegitimate	...	...	1	2

(b) Deaths of Infants Under 4 Weeks of Age.

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Total	...	...	4	2
Legitimate	...	...	3	—
Illegitimate	...	...	1	2

The above deaths of infants under one year of age represent a rate of 38.3 per thousand nett births. The rate for England and Wales in 1950 was 29.8 per thousand " related " births.

TABLE I

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1950 and Previous Years

Year	Population esti- mated mid. year	Births (Nett)			Deaths (Nett)						Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Rate, England and Wales	Under 1 year of age			At all ages				
					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett births	Rate, England and Wales	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Standardised Death Rate		Rate, England and Wales
1937	16,650	210	12.6	14.9	18	85.7	58	198	11.1	8.8	12.4	12
1938	16,510	218	13.2	15.1	9	41.3	53	183	11.1	8.8	11.6	35
1939	16,920	251	14.8	14.8	12	47.8	51*	183	10.8	8.4	12.1	68
1940	16,200	215	13.2	14.1	11	50.7	57*	220	13.6	11.1	14.4	5
1941	15,070	238	15.5	13.9	8	32.8	60*	205	13.6	11.1	13.5	33
1942	14,880	249	16.7	15.6	16	64	51*	220	14.7	12.0	12.3	29
1943	14,450	280	19.3	16.2	8	28.7	49*	209	14.4	11.8	13.0	71
1944	14,800	275	18.5	17.7	8	28.5	45*	191	12.8	†	12.7	84
1945	15,240	264	17.3	15.9	14	53	46*	220	14.4	†	12.6	44
1946	16,830	317	18.8	19.2	16	50.5	43*	245	14.6	†	12.0	72
1947	17,480	380	21.1	20.5	10	26	41*	255	14.5	†	12.3	125
1948	18,550	330	17.8	17.8	5	16	34*	218	11.8	†	11.0	112
1949	18,700	323	17.3	16.7	4	12.4	32*	234	12.5	9.6	11.7†	89
1950	19,000	261	13.7||	15.8†	9	38.3	29.8	255	13.4	10.3	11.6†	6

‡Provisional.

*Rate per 1,000 "related" births.

†No Area Comparability Factor available for these years.

||15.07 per thousand when Comparability Factor applied.

TABLE II

Causes of Death of Residents 1950

The following table compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, is classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	2	3
Tuberculosis, Other	1	1	2
Syphilitic Disease	1	1	2
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	5	8	13
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	5	3	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	17	8	25
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	9	21	30
Coronary Disease, Angina	27	14	41
Hypertension with heart disease ...	10	5	15
Other heart disease	13	24	37
Other circulatory disease	2	5	7
Influenza	0	1	1
Pneumonia	8	6	14
Bronchitis	8	3	11
Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	2	0	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	0	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	11	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
All other accidents	2	4	6
Suicide	0	1	1
Homicide and operations of War ...	0	0	0
Totals	124	131	255

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers

For list see page 1.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer for the Essex County Council in the South East Essex Health Area, under the County Council's scheme for the decentralisation of their functions as a Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act 1946, and similar decentralisation under the Education Act 1944. The agreed allocation of duties between the two Councils is that twenty per cent of the officer's time shall be devoted to the function of Medical Officer of Health. A separate office at the Council Office Annexe in Rochford, is provided by the Rochford Rural District Council for the carrying out of the duties of Medical Officer of Health.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, in addition to the routine duties of his office, is also responsible for the Council's Refuse and Salvage Collection schemes (including the Night Soil Collection service). He also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Inspector, and the duties imposed under the Factories Act, 1937 with regard to the granting of certificates to premises, as to means of escape in case of fire.

After considering the matter on several occasions the Council decided to replace the unqualified assistant who had resigned in February 1950, by a qualified sanitary inspector, Mr. E. R. Shepherd took up the duties of additional Sanitary Inspector on 26th October, 1950.

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory at Westcliff Hospital, Balmoral Road, Southend-on-Sea has continued to provide a valuable service to the District. This laboratory, which is provided by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health, now provides the bacteriological service for the District. The laboratory undertakes the examination of milk and water supplies (bacteriological examinations only), ice cream samples and the bacteriological examination of specimens in connection with suspected food poisoning or infectious diseases and the like. Much use has been made of the laboratory during the year and it is pleasing to record the ever ready and willing co-operation obtained from the staff.

For the chemical examination of water supplies and sewage effluents the service provided by the Essex County Council

through the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., continued to be available during 1950.

Chemical analysis of foodstuffs is undertaken by Dr. Bernard Dyer and Partners (1948) Ltd., who are Public Analysts to the Essex County Council.

Hospitals

An outline of the hospital provision of various categories available to the inhabitants of the Rochford Rural District in the vicinity and elsewhere was given in my Annual Report for 1949. There was no change in the facilities available during 1950.

There appears to be a great demand for the provision of more hospital accommodation for the aged who are suffering from chronic sickness of such a degree as to prevent them being admitted to the hostel accommodation provided by the Welfare Department of the Essex County Council.

National Assistnace Act 1948

No cases came to light during 1950 whereby action by the Council was called for in order to obtain the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention, under the provisions of Section 47 of the above Act.

Under Section 50 the Council are obliged to arrange burial for deceased persons dying in their area and for whom no other person is responsible. In 1950 four such burials had to be arranged in each instance the deceased was a resident of this area.

The demand for accommodation to be provided under Part III of the Act for aged persons and others requiring care but not medical treatment, shows no signs of diminishing.

Local Health Authorities Services

These comprise the following personal health services the care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children, the health visiting home nursing and domiciliary midwifery services, arrangements for immunisation and vaccination, arrangements for the prevention of illness, care and after care, the domestic help service, the ambulance service and the mental health service. These services are the responsibility of the Essex County Council who for the day to day administration, of all except the ambulance and mental health services, have delegated their powers and responsibilities to Area Health Committees. The Rochford Rural District Council is represented by three members on the South

East Essex Health Area Sub Committee which serves the Urban Districts of Billericay, Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh as well as the Rural District of Rochford.

For the above services, regular ante-natal clinics are held at Rochford, Rayleigh and Great Wakering and child welfare centres at Rochford, Great Wakering, Hockley, Hullbridge, Canewdon and Barling.

A staff of home nurse-midwives health visitors and part-time domestic helps is engaged on these services by the County Council.

For ambulances the Rochford Rural District is served from the County Councils Ambulance Depot at Thundersley or by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Southend-on-Sea, with whom the County Council have reciprocal arrangements.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

A total of 174 cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, were reported during the year 1950, as compared with 350 cases during 1949. The reduction as compared with the previous year, is largely explained by the occurrence of measles in epidemic form in 1949, whilst there were only sporadic cases of the disease in the District in 1950. Scarlet fever was a little more frequent in its occurrence than in the preceding few years. There were more cases of poliomyelitis than in any previous year. The Public Health (Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Encephalitis and Meningococcal Infection) Regulations, 1949 came into operation on 1st January, 1950. By these regulations acute poliomyelitis became notifiable as either paralytic or non-paralytic; acute encephalitis as either infectious or post infectious following diseases such as measles, mumps etc., and meningococcal infection includes cerebro-spinal fever.

In the tables on pages 18 and 19 are set out the classification of the diseases notified during the year in the District, according to ages and locality of residence.

Some brief comments on the incidence during 1950 of certain of the infectious diseases are given below.

Poliomyelitis

Of the total of eight confirmed cases which occurred in the District in 1950, five were of the paralytic form of the disease and three of the non-paralytic. One of the former was a fatal case.

Two of the cases occurred in January, and these are regarded as belonging to the epidemic period of 1949, when the disease was prevalent during the autumn in the County of Essex. The other cases occurred as follows: in July, three; and one in each of the months of August, September, and November. Two of the July cases, a boy aged 6 and a girl aged 8, were from the same family. They had arrived in the District on holiday from the outer London area six days prior to the onset of symptoms. The girl was the fatal case referred to above. In all the other cases only one member of the family concerned was affected. One was an adult, one a child of seven years, and the other four were children of pre-school age. One of the latter definitely contracted the disease (non-paralytic form) sometime before coming to this District.

In none of these cases could direct contact with a previous case be established nor did any of them give rise to other cases.

Three other suspected cases of poliomyelitis were admitted to hospital for investigation during the months of July, and August, but in these instances the diagnosis was not confirmed. The respective final diagnoses were fibrositis, injury to leg and tuberculous meningitis.

Para-typhoid Fever

The two cases of para-typhoid fever had no connection with each other. One was a youth who had been admitted to hospital in this District from another area for investigation. The other was a woman admitted to hospital for a gall bladder operation, and who when swabbed was discovered to be a carrier of para-typhoid B. No suggestive history of a previous infection could be obtained.

Scarlet Fever

Notifications of scarlet fever in the District were more frequent in both 1949 and 1950 than they had been for the previous five years. From November 1949 until March 1950 there were 55 notified cases, 32 of which occurred during the period January-March 1950. The dates of onset of these latter cases were evenly distributed throughout that period. The majority of the cases occurred in the parish of Rochford but there were also cases in nearly every other parish in the District. No article of food or drink came under suspicion as a possible vehicle in the transmission of the disease.

Although 13 of these cases of scarlet fever were admitted to hospital during 1950 the disease exhibited its present day mild form and the hospital admissions were arranged principally because conditions were unsuitable for nursing at home.

Measles

The year 1950 was not a "measles year" in the Rochford Rural District as was to be expected after the occurrence of 260 cases in 1949. Of the total of 32 cases in 1950, there were none in the first quarter, 5 in the second, 25 in the third and 2 in the last quarter of the year.

Diphtheria

It is once again possible to record that there were no case of diphtheria notified in the District during the year.

The responsibility of diphtheria immunisation among children up to the age of fifteen belongs to the Essex County Council who, through their Health Area Sub-Committee have arranged to pay general practitioners for records of immunisations carried out by them, and who also arrange regular immunisation sessions at their various clinics throughout the District.

Whooping Cough

Apart from the parish of Great Wakering where there were 38 cases, the Rural District as a whole was relatively free from whooping cough during 1950.

Up to the present, no scheme for vaccination against whooping cough has been in operation in the Rural District, although some children have seen so treated by private arrangements.

Other Notifiable Diseases

There were no cases of smallpox in 1950, nor did any contacts of cases imported into this country during the year arrive in the District.

No cases were notified under the Jaundice Regulations 1943, but one case of Weil's Disease in a patient residing outside the District was thought to have been contracted at his place of work in the area. The premises concerned were in a remote spot and the occupier engaged in the collection of fat and bones. There was evidence of old rat infestation and a dog which was known to have been about the premises at the particular time gave a strong positive serum reaction with *Leptospira ictero-haemorrhagiae*

with a low cross reaction with *Leptospira canicola*. The premises were treated for the rat infestation immediately and thereafter the owner entered into a contract with the Pest Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee.

Diseases Not Notifiable

A mild form of influenza was prevalent in the District in the latter weeks of the year.

The diseases common to childhood such as mumps, rubella and chicken pox appear to have been comparatively rare during the year. Only a very few cases of mumps were notified by head teachers as occurring in school children.

Tuberculosis

Twenty-two cases were added to the Tuberculosis Register of the District during 1950, fourteen of these being new cases notified for the first time and the remaining eight being persons who had moved into the District after having been notified elsewhere as suffering from the disease. Particulars of these new cases grouped as to sex and age are classified below.

Age	New Notifications				Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
25 — 35	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
35 — 45	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	1
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	8	4	—	2	5	2	—	1

There were five deaths from tuberculosis during the year, one male and two females from the respiratory form and one male and one female from the non-respiratory form of the disease.

During the year thirteen names were removed from the Register, eight of whom had recovered from the disease, one who was found to be non-tuberculosis and four, in whom the disease was still active, had gone to live elsewhere.

At the end of the year there were 121 cases on the Tuberculosis Register as compared with 117 at 1st January, 1950. These cases were classified as follows :

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1st January, 1950	48	41	14	14
31st December, 1950	50	45	14	15

Since the post-war rehousing programme got under way the Council have rehoused three families in which there was a patient suffering from tuberculosis in an infectious form. With the present pressure on hospital beds for the tuberculous, many of these patients have to remain at home for prolonged periods while awaiting admission. There remain four such families living in unsatisfactory housing conditions, either because of overcrowding or of defects in the structure of the building. The Essex County Council as the Local Health Authority on occasions provide open air shelters for the occupation of such patients where there is sufficient space in the garden.

The formation of a Tuberculosis Care Committee in the early part of the year for the combined districts of Benfleet, Canvey, Rayleigh and Rochford was an important step forward as far as the prevention of Tuberculosis in this area is concerned. The Care Committee receives grants from the Essex County Council in addition to their funds and give help, usually by means of grants in kind, to tuberculous households, over and above that available from official sources.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1950 (EXCLUSIVE OF TUBERCULOSIS)

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 or over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Acute Infective Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	1	—
Food poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	32	3	4	3	6	5	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	8	1	1	1	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	8	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	2	—	—	20	—
Scarlet Fever ...	45	—	4	10	1	9	15	4	2	—	—	—	—	13	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—
Whooping Cough ...	52	1	3	10	8	16	11	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	174	7	12	24	16	31	40	8	4	23	4	3	2	46	1

Table Shewing Local Distribution of Cases of Notifiable Disease (Other than Tuberculosis) During 1950.

PARISH	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Measles	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Infective Encephalitis	Poliomylitis	Total
Ashington	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	5
Barling	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	3
Canewdon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	7
Fambridge	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foulness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Hawkwell	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	4
Hockley	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	7	..	1	10
Paglesham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rochford	..	2	..	22	1	..	20	29	2	5	1	4	87
Stambridge	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Sutton	..	3	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Wakering, Great	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	38	..	..	52
Wakering, Little	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
TOTAL	7	6	..	32	1	..	20	45	2	52	1	8	174

HOUSING

The provision of much needed houses for such of their population as are living in unsatisfactory conditions is one of the major activities of a District Council at the present time. On the successful solution of this problem depends the alleviation or removal of many conditions which, in greater or lesser degree, are considered to be prejudicial to health. Among these conditions are overcrowding, the lack of modern amenities such as running water and adequate sanitation and general structural defects.

Post War Building

During the year 1950 there were 67 new houses built for the Council and a further 23 for private owners. In the period from the end of the war until December 1950, the Council had built 200 houses and 230 more were built by private enterprise. In addition, 86 dwellings had been provided by the Council by the conversion of war time camps. Some 25 families are now living permanently in moveable dwellings which have been stationed in the District in this same period.

The Council had an additional 66 new houses under construction at the end of 1950 and tenders were than being invited for a further 48 houses, all of which it is anticipated will have been completed by the end of 1951.

The table below shows the number and type of houses owned by the Rochford Rural District Council in each parish in the District at the end of 1950.

Parish	Number of Non-parlour Type	Number of Parlour Type	Totals
Ashingdon	—	20	20
Barling Magna	16	8	24
Canewdon	43	6	49
Foulness	—	—	—
Hawkwell	—	16	16
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	—	10	10
Paglesham	12	—	12
Rochford	110	152	262
Stambridge	28	—	28
Sutton	—	—	—
Great Wakering	106	30	136
Totals	315	242	557

The above table includes ten cottages built during the war years under the provisions of the Housing (Financial Provisions)

Act 1938. Six of these ten houses are in Canewdon, two are in Great Wakering and two in Hockley (Hullbridge). There are also included in the table three cottages of the non-parlour type in Canewdon which were acquired by the Council and reconditioned by them. The total number of houses includes 24 small bungalows for aged persons, eight being in Rochford and sixteen in Great Wakering. There are also included six normal sized bungalows at Canewdon.

Reconditioning of Houses

The Rural Housing Survey of the District which was completed in 1947, showed that, of the 5,344 houses of a rateable value of £20 or under, no fewer than 428 of these were classified in category 5 as being unfit. The Survey, however, was not sufficiently detailed to enable a categorical statement to be made that all of these 428 houses were incapable of repair at reasonable expense and therefore subject to be dealt with under Section II of the Housing Act 1936.

In the period since the Survey was undertaken 14 Demolition Orders have been made by the Council, but only five of these houses have been demolished so far. The remainder are still being occupied. In the same period, the Council accepted undertakings from the owners of six houses that these would not be relet for habitation until they had been made fit to the Council's satisfaction. Of these six properties, two were converted into one house, two others have been reconditioned and the remaining two were still in the occupation of the original tenants at the end of the year. In-formal undertakings on similar lines were also accepted in respect of another four houses in 1950.

In a number of cases when unfit houses have been empty the property has been sold and the new owner, for his own occupation, has undertaken major works of reconditioning, which have raised the house from the unfit category into the fit. With the present restrictions on new building it is evident that this practice is achieving a useful purpose in improving the housing standards of the District and, of late, the Council have tended to encourage this procedure by accepting undertakings, as outlined above, rather than pressing for Demolition Orders, in the case of houses where such extensive reconditioning is possible.

Under present conditions many owners find great difficulty in maintaining their rented properties in a state of good repair and in many cases considerable deterioration is taking place. It is not unknown in this District for owners to ask for Demolition or Closing Orders to be placed on their properties. House property of this type is inevitably a constant source of complaint

on the part of the tenants and in many cases, merely in order to prolong the life of the property, only essential repairs are asked for.

Housing Inspections

The following table shows the number of housing inspections made during the year and the consequent action taken in the various instances.

1.	(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	132
		(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	531
	(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	15
		(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	23
	(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
	(4)		Number of dwelling houses (Exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	120
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :			
			Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	103
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—			
	(A)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
		(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
		(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
			By owners	—
	(B)	Proceeding under Public Health Acts :—		
		(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
		(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
		(a)	By owners	13
		(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

(C)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(c)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted not to be used for human habitation	2

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

An outline of the sources of the main water supplies available to the inhabitants of the Rochford Rural District was given in my Annual Report for 1949. Apart from the extensions to the mains and the new connections to the mains, both of which are mentioned below, there were no changes to be recorded as regards the water supplies of the District in 1950.

Frequent samples of the raw water, and of the main water as supplied to consumers, are taken by the statutory water undertakers, the Southend Waterworks Company. A copy of a report from the Counties Public Health Laboratories on the chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of a sample of main water taken on the 5th July, 1950 from the Southend Waterworks Company's mains is set out on page 25.

There was no contamination of the main water supply during the year. These waters are not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action.

Extensions to Water Mains

The end of the year 1950 marked the completion of the Council's post-war schemes of extensions to the water mains in their District, for which loan sanction had been obtained from the Ministry of Health. The Council's original proposals included several separate lengths of mains for which loan sanction was not granted. These latter have not been proceeded with owing to the relatively high cost of the work when measured against the few properties which have benefit from the laying of such lengthy extensions. In addition, future development to any marked extent would now appear to be unlikely in these areas. The number of houses thus excluded from the likelihood of possessing a main water supply is 62. A further 18 houses are situated too far from any public highway where the main is available to en-

able them to be connected thereto, except at a prohibitive cost to the owners concerned.

The total length of new mains laid in the period as part of the above scheme was 13,867 yards and the cost to the Council by way of non-returnable contributions to the Southend Waterworks Company was £15,830. Each of the 223 properties to which a main water supply was thus made available accounted for an average length of 62 yards of main.

The following list shows the locality of the separate extensions to the mains which were laid in the post-war period and the number of properties to which main water was thereby made available, in those parishes in which this work was carried out. Only a few of the properties listed had actually been connected to the water mains by the end of 1950, but it is expected that the majority of the remainder will soon avail themselves of the newly provided facility.

Parish	Roads	Lengths (Yards)	Number of Properties to which main supply made available
Ashingdon (S. Fambridge)	Harrogate Road	179	2
Barling Magna	Barling Road	1,650	23
Hawkwell	White Hart Lane	327	4
	Lincoln Road	520	7
Hockley	Meadow Drive	73	4
	Etheldore Avenue	236	8
	Beckney Avenue	132	5
	Lower Road (Part)	960	8
(Hullbridge)	Central Avenue	700	13
	Fourth Avenue	60	1
	Burlington Gardens	117	3
	*Broadway Gardens	158	0
	Wellington Avenue	320	9
	Queen Anne Grove	60	2
	Kingsway South	90	2
	Kingsway North	70	2
	Cranleigh Gardens	60	1
	Skewpath Road	233	5
	High Elms Road	264	5
	Burnham Road	230	2
	Meadow Road	96	2
	Crouch Avenue	480	10
	Cromwell Close	165	4
	Waxwell Road	167	2
Paglesham	Church End	{ 6,520 }	32
	East End		67
Totals		13,867	223

* Link Main Only

WATER ANALYSIS

The following is a copy of a report from the Counties Public Health Laboratories on the analysis of a sample of water taken from the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company on the 5th July, 1950 :

Chemical results in parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and bright
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Nil
Colour	...	...	...	...	Less than 10
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	...	8.4
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Absent
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	490
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	330
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	68
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	23
Hardness : Total	...	...	...	...	115
Carbonate	...	...	...	...	23
Non-carbonate	...	...	...	...	92
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	2.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.073
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.80
Residual Chlorine (at time of sampling)	...	...	...	...	Absent
Metals : Iron	...	...	...	...	0.04
Other Metals	...	...	...	...	Absent

Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies developing on			
Agar :		1 day at 37°C.	0 per ml.
		2 days at 37°C.	0 per ml.
		3 days at 20°C.	0 per ml.
	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Probable</i>
	<i>in</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes			
Reaction	—ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	—ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	—ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a faintly alkaline reaction and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate and it

is free from any excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Signed : ROY C. HOATHER.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

New Connections to Water Mains

A total of 183 new connections to the water mains were made throughout the District in 1950, and of these 90 were in respect of new dwellings, 67 of which were Council Houses. No new standpipes were provided by the Council or by private owners during the year, and 30 properties which had previously been served by standpipes were provided with a piped water supply inside the house.

In the great majority of instances, informal action has been successful in procuring a piped main water supply inside the house when this has been asked for. As the amount required to be spent by an owner on one house by way of providing a main water supply is still limited by Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 to the sum of £20, the provisions of the Water Act, 1945, whereby a local authority can now require a piped supply to be laid on inside the house are often nullified owing to the greatly increased cost of this work, which frequently exceeds the £20 limit.

Main Water Supplies in the District

The following table shows, for each of the eleven parishes of the Rochford Rural District, the number of houses and the estimated population having a main water supply at the end of the year. The figures as to houses supplied from the water mains have been furnished by the Southend Waterworks Company and have been carefully checked with the Council's housing records, and are considered to be as accurate and up-to-date as can be obtained.

MAIN WATER SUPPLIES

Houses and Population in Each Parish on Main Supply, 1950.

Parish	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	Houses on Main Supply	Estimated Population on Main Supply	Houses Supplied by Standpipe	Estimated Population Supplied by Standpipe
Ashingdon :						
Ashingdon Ward	337	1,056	303	949	6	19
S. Fambridge Ward	79	248	54	169	6 + 9*	19 + 28
Barling Magna	304	953	199	623	22	68
Canewdon	245	768	208	652	9	28
Foulness**	115	360	110	345	5	16
Great Wakering	902	2,826	865	2,710	—	—
Hawkwell	978	3,064	953	2,986	6 + 8*	19 + 25
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	1,279	4,007	1,254	3,929	13 + 12*	41 + 38
Paglesham†	92	288	32	100	—	—
Rochford	1,509	4,728	1,442	4,518	47	147
Stambridge...	140	439	121	379	—	—
Sutton	84	263	83	260	—	—
	6,064	19,000	5,624	17,620	114 + 29*	448

*Council standpipes on roadside. Others are in curtilage of private properties.

†Main to Paglesham only completed in October, 1949.

**War Department Mains.

From the foregoing table it can be ascertained that 92.74 per cent of all houses in the Rochford Rural District have their own piped main water supply, while a further 2.5 per cent obtain main water from standpipes which are either within the curtilage of the property or have been erected by the Council in the roadside at the end of existing water mains. It is hoped that there will be a further improvement on these figures before the end of 1951, but it is obvious that there are comparatively few problems of water supply remaining in the Rural District, and these are of only minor significance.

Shallow Well Supplies

There was a further decrease during 1950 in the number of houses dependant on shallow wells for their water supply. At East End, Paglesham, the pump continued in use, but steps were in hand to lay piped supplies on to all of the houses which until then had to depend on this one source of supply. The Council Houses at East End, Paglesham (Jubilee Cottages) were connected to the water main in 1950, and the two shallow wells which had been their only sources of supply were abandoned.

At the end of the year the following house properties on the line of the existing water mains still relied on shallow wells for their supply.

Great Wakering	...	...	10	Rochford	...	...	5
Barling Magna	...	...	10	Canewdon	...	...	1
Stambridge	...	...	3				

The majority of the above properties are owner occupied, and in such cases the owners have been reluctant to connect to the water main supply because of the expense involved and the lack, up to the present of a main sewer.

Twenty-two samples of water from 17 of the above shallow wells were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, and of these samples seventeen were unsatisfactory and only five satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples showed the presence of faecal coli or of coliform organisms in more than minimal quantities.

Two of the wells which had given several unsatisfactory results were replaced during the year by main water supplies, as were two other wells which had, up to then, yielded satisfactory results.

There are also a further 29 properties which perforce rely on shallow well supplies out of the 62 already mentioned for whom a main water supply at the present time is not possible because of the cost.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Rochford Rural District, as will have been seen from the previous section, has for many years made steady progress in the provision of main water supplies throughout its area. The first mains were laid in 1903 in Rochford, Hawkwell and Hockley, and thereafter extensions continued to be laid in these and other parishes. The need for an adequate sewerage system does not appear to have been appreciated quite so early as that for a piped main water supply. Only in Rochford were there any public sewers prior to 1916, and these were unsatisfactory and the treatment of the sewage inadequate. Troubles continue to be experienced to this day with some of the old brick barrel sewers dating from this period.

The modern system of sewerage in Rochford dates from 1916. Since that time the sewers have been extended from time to time and a new treatment plant has been erected at Stambridge to treat sewage from this system and the nearby extensions of these sewers in the parishes of Ashingdon, Hawkwell and Hockley. By 1933 a separate system of sewerage and sewage disposal had been provided for Great Wakering village. At the end of 1940 there were 21 miles of sewers in the Rochford sewerage system (including those sewers which are now, by reason of boundary revisions, in adjoining districts) and over 5 miles in the Great Wakering system. At that time there were 58 miles of service water mains in the Rural District.

Since the war, i.e., from 1946 to 1950, 1,730 yards of soil sewers and 2,263 yards of surface water sewers have been laid to serve the Council's various housing sites. The urgent need for extending the sewerage system of the District is recognised by the Council and the steps being taken by them to effect this are outlined below under the heading "Proposed New Extensions to the Sewers."

Sewage Disposal Works

As mentioned above there are two separate sewerage systems in the District, each draining to its own Sewage Disposal Works. These latter are situated at Stambridge and at Great Wakering respectively. The Sewage Disposal Works at Stambridge treat sewage from Rochford parish and parts of the parishes of Ashingdon, Hawkwell and Hockley, and also, from outside the Rural District, part of Eastwood in the County Borough of Southend, part of Thundersley in the Urban District of Benfleet, and part of Rayleigh U.D.C. area. The works at Great Wakering treat sewage from the more populous parts of the parish.

The Engineer and Surveyor to the Council adds the following notes on the operation of the respective Sewage Disposal Works during the year.

The Stambridge works, which are designed to deal with a maximum of 20,000 persons at 25 gallons per head per day, and are estimated to be serving some 16,500 persons at the present time, are fed from a main pumping station at Rochford, and the outfall is to the tidal waters of the River Roach. During 1950 the standard of the effluent from these works was again uniformly high, and well within the limits of purity required on the standard adopted by the Essex County Council for inland waterways. During the year the replacement of four filter arms was completed. The disposal of excess raw sludge, by direct application, to fertilize adjacent agricultural land has proved to be successful and economical.

The works at Great Wakering, which are designed for a population of 2,500 persons and are estimated to be serving approximately 2,270 at present, are also fed from a pumping station, and the outfall is again to tidal waters, in this instance, Havengore Creek. Except after heavy rains, the standard of this effluent has also been uniformly high. The six existing sludge beds were completely reconditioned during the year.

Recently flumes were installed at both the above Works in order to by-pass storm water. It is anticipated that this will obviate the troubles previously experienced through there being overloading by storm water.

In addition to the above works there are two small sewage plants, one at Sutton and one at Canewdon, which were originally built for military camps sited there during the war. As these camps are now used in part for temporary housing, these sewage disposal plants have continued in operation. The outfall from the Sutton plant enters a small brook which is a tributary of the River Roach, that from the Canewdon plant is piped to a ditch. The Council are now maintaining these two plants.

Post-War Sewer Extensions

The following extensions to the sewers have been completed to serve the Council's various post-war Housing Sites in the period from 1946-50.

						Sewers laid (Yards)	
Parish						Soil	Surface Water
(a) ROCHFORD SYSTEM							
Rochford,	The Drive	...	...	...		96	700
	Garden Estate	...	...	...		646	730
Ashingdon,	Pulpits, Greensward Lane	...				445	188
Hawkwell,	Mount Bovers Lane	...	...			49	—
Stambridge,	Cagefield	...	...	...		—	107
(b) GREAT WAKERING SYSTEM							
Great Wakering	Coronation Close	...	...			110	123
	Twyford Avenue	...	...			347	415
Barling,	Bakers Grove	...	...	...		37	—
Total						1,730	2,263

New Connections to Sewer 1950

The number and locations of house drainage connections to the main sewers which were made during the year were as follows :

EXISTING DWELLINGS

<i>Parish</i>						<i>No. of Connections</i>
Rochford	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hawkwell	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hockley	...	...	...	...	...	7
Great Wakering	...	...	...	...	...	1

NEW DWELLINGS

Rochford	...	...	...	...	...	38
Hawkwell	...	...	...	...	...	4
Hockley	...	...	...	...	...	2
Great Wakering	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashingdon	...	...	...	...	...	19

Proposed Extensions to Sewers

During the year the approval of the Ministry of Health was obtained to the Council's application for loan sanction for the provision of sewerage for the Stambridge Village Area. Tenders were being obtained at the end of the year and the work is expected to be completed in 1951.

Under the Private Street Works Act 1892, the Council submitted proposals to the Ministry of Health for the sewerage of York Road, Albert Road, and Alexandra Road, Hawkwell, on the grounds that a definite Public Health nuisance existed in this area. The Ministry of Health later informed the Council that further consideration would be given to this proposal upon receipt of an assurance that the preliminary procedure under the Private Street Works Act 1892 had been carried out to the stage of the disposal by the Justices of any objections received.

Under the Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944 the Council, during 1950, submitted outline sewerage proposals to the Ministry of Health for the following, Barling Magna ; Hullbridge No. 1 Area and outfall sewers to serve the following private streets in Hawkwell parish ; Park Drive, Victor Gardens, The Westerings, Hillside Avenue and Eastbury Avenue. Other schemes were in course of preparation for Hullbridge No. 2 Area, Canewdon Village and Scotts Hall Council Houses. All these areas, with the possible exception of Canewdon, would drain into the existing disposal works, Barling Magna into Great Wakering Works the remainder into the Stambridge Disposal Works. A scheme for the provision of the above mentioned outfall sewers had been prepared by the Council just prior to the war, but it was, of course, not possible to proceed further at the time.

The Council has decided that wherever possible, surface water drainage will, in future, be best dealt with on the Separate System so as to avoid further overloading the soil sewerage pumping systems.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The only two rivers in the Rural District, namely the Rivers Crouch and Roach and the creeks which enter them, are tidal in their entire course in the District. They are not liable to any major pollution from sources within the Rural District. One small stream which is a tributary of the River Roach, receives in its upper reaches, the effluent from the Sewerage Disposal Works of the adjacent Rayleigh Urban District Council, and because of the small volume of this stream, some pollution can occur when dilution is insufficient in dry weather.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council have had a regular system of house refuse collection throughout their District for a number of years but this does not extend to the many unmade roads which are impassable to motor vehicles. There has also been a system of pail closet collection in operation for about the same period for those parts of the Rural District which are not as yet served by main sewers, but which are accessible to motor vehicles. The Council's scheme for Salvage Collection is incorporated in their House Refuse Collection Service.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council undertake a fortnightly collection of household refuse throughout their District, apart from the central part of Rochford, where the collection is undertaken weekly. To serve the very considerable number of houses situated on unmade roads, a system has been evolved over the past three years whereby bins in holders have been installed at the main road ends of these private roads. These bins are emptied weekly by a special collection.

Eleven men are constantly engaged on house refuse collection and disposal. Three vehicles have to be employed on this work. Considerable difficulty has been experienced from time to time in recruiting sufficient labour to fill the occasional vacancies which arise among the staff and in maintaining the service adequately.

There has been a progressive increase in the volume of house refuse collected in the post-war years. This has made more pressing the problem of obtaining a suitable tipping site whereon the Council may carry on undisturbed for some years to come their adopted method of disposal of refuse by controlled tipping. This is the only practicable method of refuse disposal in a rural District such as this. For the greater part of the year the rapidly diminishing site at the Council's Depot was in use for controlled tipping, but just before the end of the year a temporary arrangement was come to whereby tipping began on some old gravel workings in Rochford. It is now becoming urgently necessary for the Council to obtain a permanent site for tipping, and to this end the Council resolved in the latter part of 1950 to seek a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of certain excavated land in Rochford.

The cost of House Refuse Collection and Disposal for the past three years has been as follows :

Year ending : 31-3-49, £3,689 ; 31-3-50, £3,806 ; 31-3-51, £3,998.

The table below shows the extent of the services of House Refuse collection and of Pail Closet collection provided for the various parishes in the Rochford Rural District at the end of the year 1950.

Parish	House Refuse No. of Houses Collected		Pail Closet No. of Houses Collected	
	14 day	7 day	Twice Weekly	Weekly
Ashingdon	204	—	39	4
Barling Magna	290	—	161	—
Canewdon	218	—	92	19
Foulness	110	—	—	—
Hawkwell	709	—	11	—
Hockley	969	—	87	16
Paglesham	108	—	74	—
Rochford	1,093	387	14	23
Stambridge... ..	134	—	80	—
Sutton	58	—	23	—
Wakering, Great	870	—	73	—
TOTALS	4,758	387	664	62

Pail Closet Collections

As will be seen from the above table, in the majority of instances, pail closet collections are undertaken twice weekly. Any further expansion of this service is well nigh impossible with the present complement of three men and one special vehicle equipped with a night soil collection attachment. The increase in the number of collections in 1950 as compared with 1949 is accounted for by some extension of the service to properties not hitherto served and by collection being made from properties which had converted to pail closets from privies during the year. It is to be hoped that the need for this service will progressively diminish as the laying of main sewers proceeds and more and more properties can connect to the main sewers.

The Council received representatives during the year from the Parish Council of Foulness regarding the extension of the service to that Parish but they felt that, under prevailing conditions they could not provide this service there at the present time.

The cost of the Pail Closet Collection Scheme for the past three years was as follows :

Year ending 31-3-49, £1,509 ; 31-3-50, £1,572 ; 31-3-51, £1,764.

The cost in 1950 represented a sum of approximately 6d. for each pail collected as compared with 5d. for the previous year.

Salvage Collection

The increase in the demand for salvaged materials is a reflection on the scarcity from other sources of raw materials for industry. The year 1950 saw the commencement of the backward swing of the pendulum from the low level of 1949 towards what may prove to be a peak demand equal to that of the war years.

The Council collect salvage at the same time as the house refuse collection is made and for this purpose employ trailers which are attached to their refuse collecting vehicles. Any obvious worth while metal salvage is sorted on the refuse tip for subsequent collection by scrap merchants.

The following list gives particulars of the various items of salvage collected and sold during the year :

					<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Paper	...	...	...	...	77	11	—	—
Bones	...	...	...	...	1	11	1	20
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...		15	—	16
Heavy Metals	...	...	...	...	8	7	2	—
Textiles	...	...	...	...	3	2	—	—
Totals					91	7	—	8

The value of the salvage sold during the year was £497 0s. 2d. For the greater part of the year the price of waste paper was £3 per ton, but by the end of the year it had risen to £7 per ton.

As in the past, 25 per cent of the income from the sale of salvage was distributed to the refuse collectors in the form of a bonus.

For the year ending 31st March, 1950 the net income to the Council on their Salvage Collection Scheme amounted to £227/3/2.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Despite the fact that no technical assistance was available to the Sanitary Inspector for the greater part of the year, the total number of inspections in 1950 showed a slight increase over those made in the previous year. The table below shows the number and nature of the inspections made, and the notices, formal and informal, served under the various sections.

The relatively large number of visits paid under the heading water supplies was accounted for by the progress being made during the year with the laying of the extensions to the water mains in the District. The results of these visits are, in some measure, reflected in the increase in the number of new connections made in 1950. Also to be noted are the large number of visits which were necessary under the headings "Drainage and Cesspools and Sanitary Accommodation." Under present conditions this is an ever recurring feature of the work in this District and will be so until considerable progress is possible in the laying of main sewers.

It was also possible to devote a considerable proportion of visits to the inspection of food handling and food storage premises. The majority of such visits were of an advisory nature.

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspection s	Notices Served	
		Informal	Formal
Bakehouses	23	—	—
Camping Sites	15	—	—
Dairies	25	2	—
Damage by Pests Act 1949	396	63	—
Disinfections	25	—	—
Disinfestations	1	—	—
Drainage and Cesspools	214	56	—
Dustbins	29	57	3
Factories Act 1937	40	2	—
Food Storage and Preparation Premises	220	16	—
Hairdressers	8	—	—
Housing Cleanliness	6	5	—
Housing and Public Health Acts ...	132	69	13
Ice Cream Premises	34	12	—
Ice Cream Samples	16	—	—
Infectious disease enquiries	70	—	—
Licensed Premises	6	—	—
Milk Samples	4	—	—
Miscellaneous	96	—	—
Moveable Dwellings	43	—	—
Nuisances, Public Health Act ...	103	13	—
Outworkers (Factories Act 1937) ...	32	—	—
Petroleum... ..	39	2	—
Refuse Removal—Access	1	1	—
Rehousing Enquiries	43	—	—
Reinspections	399	—	—
Sanitary accommodation	103	7	—
Schools	12	—	—
Shops Act	14	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	1	—	—
Watercourses and Ditches	12	4	—
Water Samples	22	—	—
Water Supplies	278	121	3
Totals	2,462	430	19

Rodent Control

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 came into operation on the 31st March, 1950, thereby repealing the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. The duty is now laid directly on the Rural District Council, and not delegated from the County Council, as heretofore, to take the necessary steps to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice.

By a ruling of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which is the department now concerned with the administration of all rodent control, the arrangement which the Council had with the County Agricultural Executive Committee, whereby the latter's Pest Officer and his staff were employed as necessary by the Council, had to terminate on the 31st December 1950. This had proved to be a most satisfactory and economical arrangement since the operatives of the Agricultural Executive Committee were constantly working in the District and were able to deal with infestations brought to their notice without delay, and coincidentally with their work on adjacent agricultural property.

For the past four years the Council has given a free treatment service to householders, and has made a charge for treatments given to business premises. In order to enable owners and occupiers to carry out their obligations under the Act, the Council have made the services of one of their employees available for this purpose.

Sewage works, sewers and refuse tips have, as in previous years, been treated by the Council's employees as the occasion demands. Nine such treatments were given in 1950.

In the table below are given the number of inspections and treatments carried out during 1950.

MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

Type of Property	No. of Inspections Made	No. of Properties inspected	Number of Treatments carried out†				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect. 6(1) or by informal arrangement		
			By arrangement with Occupier		Failure to comply with notices		No. of Blocks	No. of separate occupancies	No. of manholes treated
			Rats*	Mice only	Rats*	Mice only			
Dwelling houses... ..	51	172	59	5	—	—	1 }	11	
Business premises	12	220	5	—	—	—		7	
Agricultural Property	4	4							
Total	67	396	64	5	—	—		18	

* Include under this heading properties infested with both rats and mice.

† Excluding treatments included under block treatments.

Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

The Caravan Site at Pooles Lane, Hullbridge continued to function successfully during the year. The maximum number of moveable dwellings permitted on this site is fifty, and that figure was reached throughout the summer season. A few caravans also remained in occupation during the winter.

In addition to the above site the Council issued annual licences, under the Public Health Act, 1936, to 22 individual applicants, to station moveable dwellings on various single sites throughout the District during the year. In all such instances the provision of an adequate water supply and satisfactory sanitary accommodation has been insisted upon.

The Council have made Byelaws for Tents, Vans and Sheds under Section 268(4) of the Public Health Act 1936, but these and the powers under the Public Health Act and the Town and Country Planning Act are insufficient to control adequately the problems which have, on occasions, arisen from itinerant van dwellers who from time to time harbour in a part of Rochford parish on a partly developed estate where the land which is unfenced, has in the past, been split into many different ownerships. Some of the owners of these parcels of land cannot now be traced.

Schools

Inspections at schools in regard to the canteen facilities and sanitary accommodation are carried out from time to time. Suggestions for improvement have been readily accepted by the Divisional Executive for Education, and as far as practicable, under present conditions, remedies have been applied.

All schools now have a piped main water supply in the premises, the last school to be so connected being Paglesham, where the work was carried out early in 1950 following on the laying of the water main extension to East End, Paglesham.

Of the thirteen schools in the District, five are on the lines of the main sewers, and all of these have water carriage sanitation. Of the others, six are provided with pail closets. In four instances the Council undertake the emptying of these twice weekly, and in the other two instances arrangements have been made by the Divisional Education Executive for a private contractor to undertake this. Two schools are provided with cesspools which receive all types of drainage and these cesspools are emptied as required, one by the Council and the other by private contract. In two other schools, cesspools are provided for the drainage of school kitchens only, and the emptying is carried out as required, by the Council.

Factories

The table on page 42 gives details of inspections made at factories in the Rochford Rural District during the year. As will be seen, there are comparatively few factories without mechanical power ; i.e., factories where the local authority are responsible for health provisions, other than sanitary accommodation, with which they are concerned in all cases. The few factories mentioned, comprise, in the main, the smaller bakehouses and garages.

Inspections were also made at factories in the District, and of plans of new factories proposed to be built, with regard to the provisions necessary for means of escape in case of fire. The Council have designated their Sanitary Inspector to carry out this work. Close co-operation is maintained with the Chief Fire Officer of the Essex County Council.

None of the factories situated in the Rural District employ any outworkers. From lists supplied by other local authorities it appeared that there were fifteen outworkers employed in the District, nearly all of whom were engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Insect Pests

There was complete freedom from complaints of infestations by the common bed bug during 1950, although there was no decrease in the number of houses inspected or reinspected. In one case an infestation of fleas was dealt with effectively.

An unusual infestation which occurred during the year was one caused by the New Zealand Weevil, which was discovered in large numbers in the floors of the bathroom, kitchen and larder of a house. The occupier of this house had a little while previously been employed in haulage work to and from the London Docks. It was presumed that the infestation had been introduced on this person's clothing, or on sacks he had brought home occasionally. A Pyrethrum—DDT emulsion was successfully used to eradicate this pest.

Mosquitoes are, unfortunately, a feature of the insect life of the District, and 1950 was no exception. The topography of the District with its lowlying areas near the coast, and the many collections of brackish water are especially favourable to the breeding of certain types. There does not appear to have been any prevalence of the Anopheline groups but of the Culicenes, *Aedes detritus* made its obnoxious presence felt frequently and painfully by its vicious biting habits.

In the above cases, and in the identification of other insects, valuable help was obtained from the staff of the British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7., who also advised, when necessary, on methods of control to be tried against particular pests.

Shops

There are comparatively few premises in the Rural District to which the provisions of the Shops Act regarding sanitary accommodation, heating and ventilation apply. In all such cases the arrangements are satisfactory.

The majority of visits to shops are in connection with the storage of food and its preparation for human consumption, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Byelaws made in 1950.

Sanitary Accommodation, Drainage and Cesspools

It will be observed that visits paid under these headings, form a fairly considerable proportion of the total number of visits paid by the staff during the year.

Approximately 52 per cent of the houses in the Rural District are situated on the line of the existing main sewers, and practically all of these (i.e., Approximately 3,200 houses) are actually connected to the sewer. In Rochford parish, where a system of sewers had been in existence for many years, some of the older, smaller properties are still served by hand flushed, hopper-type closets. During 1950 the owners of twelve of these houses converted these closets to approved type W.C.s. There remain some 40 of these obsolescent types still in use. If the Council were to require the conversion of these, it would appear that, under existing legislation they would be required to bear half the cost of the work.

With regard to those houses not situated on the lines of the main sewers, the sanitary accommodation comprises pail closets or cesspools and a very few privies. Owing to the heavy nature of the subsoil over the greater part of the area of the Rural District, the disposal of cesspool effluent by irrigation is practically impossible, even where the size of the garden would permit this, and this condition frequently does not obtain. The costly expedient of cesspool-emptying by special vehicle is out of the question in the case of over half of the cesspools in the District as the properties they serve are on unmade roads, usually impassable to such vehicles. The principle nuisances arising from the use of cesspools are due to the pumping out of the contents on to the ground, and to those cesspools which are caused to overflow into channels or nearby ditches. No nuisances have been caused by those owners who have themselves to dispose of pail closet contents.

During the year 23 privies were abolished in Paglesham and replaced by pail closets. Some privies still remain in Paglesham and Foulness.

Public Conveniences

The Council erected a Public Convenience in Rochford in pre-war years and so far this has been the only provision in the District. In 1950, however, the Council resolved to provide further conveniences at Hockley, near the Spa, and at Great Wakering, near the Fire Station. It is expected that these will be completed in 1951.

Port Sanitary Regulations

There is one berth in the Rochford Rural District, on the River Crouch to which an occasional foreign-going ship brings a cargo of timber. This berth is in the customs port of Maldon but this Council are the sanitary authority.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	22	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	40	10	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (Excluding out-workers' premises)	6	8	—	—
Total	55	40	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Reme'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	—	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Council, in February 1950, made Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance in their District of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, sold or intended for sale, for human consumption, and in connection with the sale, or exposure for sale, in the open air of food intended for human consumption. These Byelaws were confirmed by the Minister of Food and came into force on May 30th, 1950.

The various sections under which the inspection and supervision of food is divided are dealt with separately below.

(a) Milk and Dairies

The number of retail milk purveyors registered in the Rochford Rural District remained at seven during the year. Three other firms having their premises outside the District were granted supplementary licences to retail sterilised, pasteurized and tuberculin tested milk. A further twenty dealers licences for sterilized milk, ten for pasteurized milk, and seven for tuberculin tested milk were granted by the Council during 1950, to dealers with premises in the District.

In the case of the seven retailers mentioned above, the milks supplied by them to the public were as follows :

<i>Retailer</i>	<i>Milks Retailed</i>
A	T.T., Pasteurized, Sterilized.
B	Pasteurized, Sterilized, Non-designated.
C	Sterilized Non-designated.*
D	T.T., Pasteurized, Sterilized, Non-designated.
E	T.T., Pasteurized, Sterilized, Non-designated*
F	Non-designated.
G	T.T., Pasteurized, Sterilized, Non-designated.

*Bought pasteurized in bulk, bottled on premises and sold as non-designated.

There were two instances during the year where, because of the suspected presence of carriers of infectious disease among milk handlers, it was felt necessary to cause the milk from the two farms concerned to be sent for pasteurization before distribution, pending the outcome of bacteriological investigations. Ready co-operation was obtained from the milk producers concerned, who made the necessary arrangements for pasteurization without delay. No cases of infection in consumers was traceable to the milk supplies concerned.

Routine samples of milk as supplied to consumers in the District are taken for bacteriological examination and for the methylene blue and phosphatase tests. All samples taken in 1950 were satisfactory. Samples are also taken to check the efficacy of bottle washing facilities at retail premises.

(b) Meat

As in previous years, there were six private slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard licenced by the Council during the year, but these were again only used for emergency killing, and the slaughtering of a limited number of pigs under Ministry of Food Permits for the slaughter of privately owned pigs. There is no Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the Rural District, which is served by the Ministry's slaughterhouses in the Rayleigh and Benfleet Urban Districts.

The following table gives details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the District in 1950, and of the carcasses or parts of carcasses which, upon inspection, were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, ex- cluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	1	—	—
Number inspected	—	—	1	—	13
All diseases except Tubercu- losis	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—

It should be noted that there is no obligation on a person who slaughters a pig, which is not intended for sale, to notify the local authority of his intention to slaughter. Until recently, however, particulars of licences issued by the local Ministry of Food Office for the slaughter of these privately owned pigs was furnished regularly to the Council. It is to be regretted that this practice no longer obtains, as the result is that a number of pigs now being slaughtered for private consumption are not inspected post mortem by the Council's Inspectors.

Inspection of meat exposed for sale in butchers' shops is undertaken by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors during routine visits to these shops, and when specially called in by the butcher. In this category the following meat was condemned in the District during 1950 as unfit for human consumption :

Imported beef, 28½lbs. ; Home killed beef, 162½lbs. ; Im-
ported mutton, 92¼lbs.

(c) Bakehouses

There were again ten bakehouses operating in the District throughout the year. The owners of two of the older premises completed the erection of completely new bakehouses during the year, and the unsatisfactory older premises, in each case, were abandoned.

Advisory visits were paid to all bakehouses during the year. One point which was observed in bakers' shops was that insufficient protection was provided for food exposed for sale.

(d) Ice Cream

There were still four manufacturers of ice cream registered in the District in 1950 under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. None of these four manufactured on any great scale. Three of them employed the cold mix method, and the other, heat treatment. Forty-six vendors of ice cream were also registered during the year. The steady increase in the number of these latter registrations appears to indicate that there is no diminution of the public's demand for this article, despite the fact that no standards for the composition of the article had been laid down.

Visits were paid by the Inspectors to all premises handling ice cream, and particularly to those engaged in manufacturing, to advise on methods, the use of detergents and the storage and handling of the article. The improvement in conditions in the trade noted in last year's report has been maintained, and in some cases increased, but it has been necessary to point out to traders on several occasions the need to exercise greater care in preventing contamination of the servers, where bulk ice cream is dealt with. It is to be noted that the majority of vendors are now obtaining the pre-packed article which does of course decrease the amount of handling to which the ice cream is subject and thereby diminishes the likelihood of contamination.

Owing to the generally inclement weather during the summer season of 1950 the ice cream manufacturers in the District only made ice cream at irregular intervals. There was, in consequence, a drop in the number of samples obtained for bacteriological examination. It is not the practice in the District to take many samples from retailers as their ice cream is mostly obtained from an adjoining district where it is manufactured on a large scale and frequently sampled.

The following table shows the results obtained by the Public Health Laboratory, Southend, from the samples submitted from this District during 1950.

1. From Manufacturers.

Manufacturer	No. of Samples	Grading on Methylene Blue Test			
		I	II	III	IV
A	3	2	0	0	1
B	2	2	0	0	0
C	5	2	2	0	1
Total	10	6	2	0	2

2. From Retailers.

Retailer	No. of Samples	Grading on Methylene Blue Test			
		I	II	III	IV
A	2	0	1	0	1
B	2	0	1	0	1
C	1	0	0	1	0
Total	5	0	2	1	2

It has already been observed that poor bacteriological grading has been sometimes attributed to negligent handling of such things as servers, and that when reasonable precautions are taken, a great improvement in the bacteriological grading results.

Although perhaps not properly coming under the heading of ice cream, reference should be made to the increase in the sale of iced lollipops in the District, in common with this practice elsewhere. Two persons engaged in the manufacture of these articles in Rochford during the season.

(e) Shellfish

The Shellfish layings at Paglesham in the River Roach are under the control of the Port of London Health Authority. There are similar layings in the River Crouch but no landings from these are made in the Rochford Rural District.

(f) Other Foodstuffs

Regular inspections are also carried out by the Council's Inspectors at other food premises in the District. The table below shows the amounts of various foodstuffs found, upon inspection, to be unfit for human consumption.

Tinned Foods

Meat	...	75 tins
Milk	...	121 tins
Soups	...	13 tins
Fish	...	13 tins
Fruit	...	27 tins
Vegetables	...	29 tins
Marmalade	...	2 cwt.
Dried Milk	...	3 cwt.

Fresh Foods

Cheese	...	12½lbs.
Fish	...	38¼ stone
Ham	...	9½lbs.

One instance of a slight contamination of sausage meat by lead from the container in which it was mixed came to light during the year. The offending container was replaced forthwith.

(g) Food Hygiene

With the coming into operation of the Councils Byelaws with respect to the handling of food the opportunity was taken to impress on those engaged in the food handling trade in the District the need for the scrupulous observance of the recognised standards of food hygiene. To that end the Council's Inspectors delivered to each food handling business in the District a copy of the new byelaws together with a copy of section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. The reasons for the Council's adoption of the byelaws were explained to proprietors and employees, the requirements were discussed and advice was tendered on improving methods and facilities where such appeared necessary. It is considered that the time and trouble taken in this task was well worth while.

In addition, a series of three meetings with food traders and employees was held to discuss the problems of food hygiene. At these meetings there was a food hygiene exhibition arranged by the willing co-operation of the Health Education Officer of the County Medical Officer's Staff and the film " Another Case of Food Poisoning " was shown through the agency of the Central Office of Information. At none of these meetings could the attendance be described as more than fair and it would appear that success in promoting an adequate standard of food hygiene in this District is really dependent on frequent visits by the staff to such premises where the processes being carried out can be studied and where any errors of technique can be pointed out on the spot to those who do the actual work. Successive visits to these establishments have revealed a progressive improvement in the standards of food hygiene as practised by those engaged, but it would appear that some time must elapse before there can be any relaxation of effort along such lines.